

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SS-15 SP-02 INR-07 SAM-01 /038 W

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P 111540Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8775

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 07986

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, GW

SUBJECT: REQUEST BY BRUNO FRIEDRICH FOR A MEETING WITH
THE SECRETARY

1. BRUNO FRIEDRICH, AN SPD BUNDESTAG MEMBER, HAS ASKED FOR AN APPOINTMENT TO MEET WITH THE SECRETARY IN ORDER TO DISCUSS THE SPD POSITION ON ITALY, FRANCE, SPAIN AND PORTUGAL, AS WELL AS TO DISCUSS BERLIN. HE WOULD HOPE TO BE ABLE TO SPEND AN HOUR WITH THE SECRETARY.

2. FRIEDRICH WOULD BE PREPARED TO COME TO WASHINGTON TO MEET WITH THE SECRETARY, THOUGH HE WOULD ALSO, OF COURSE, BE GLAD TO MEET WITH THE SECRETARY IN EUROPE IF SOME SUITABLE OCCASION SHOULD ARISE.

3. FRIEDRICH'S REQUEST CAME TO THE EMBASSY INDIRECTLY, BEING DELIVERED BY PETER CHRISTIAN LUDZ, A PROFESSOR WITH FRIENDLY TIES TO THE SPD. THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR WILL BE MEETING WITH FRIEDRICH LATER THIS WEEK, BUT WE ARE NOT CERTAIN WHETHER FRIEDRICH WILL RAISE THE REQUEST OFFICIALLY AT THAT TIME.

4. FRIEDRICH IS ONE OF THE LEADING FIGURES IN THE SPD NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD. HE IS THE SPD FRAKTION'S SPOKESMAN ON FOREIGN POLICY. HE HAS BEEN CHARGED PARTICULARLY WITH LIAISON TO THE SOCIALIST PARTIES IN SPAIN AND PORTUGAL. HE IS MENTIONED AS A POSSIBLE SUCCESSOR TO BOERNER WHO IS SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE SPD. HE IS YOUNG, CLOSE TO SCHMIDT, AND GENERALLY
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INFLUENTIAL WITHIN THE PARTY. SINCE HE WILL PROBABLY

BE ONE OF THE LEADING FIGURES OF THE PARTY FOR AT LEAST THE NEXT TEN YEARS, WE ARE PREPARED TO RECOMMEND A MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY IF THE SECRETARY'S SCHEDULE CAN ACCOMMODATE IT.

5. BECAUSE THE GERMAN ELECTION CAMPAIGN WILL HEAT UP IN TWO MONTHS, FRIEDRICH HOPES THE APPOINTMENT WITH THE SECRETARY COULD BE ARRANGED FOR JUNE OR JULY.

6. FRIEDRICH SPEAKS LITTLE ENGLISH BUT WE HAVE HAD NO INDICATION WHETHER HE WOULD BRING AN INTERPRETER.
HILLENBRAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, FOREIGN RELATIONS, MEETINGS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BONN07986
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760181-0720
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760569/aaaachhp.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <18 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REQUEST BY BRUNO FRIEDRICH FOR A MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY
TAGS: PINT, GE, US, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (FRIEDRICH, BRUNO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006